

CLAIMS

1. An information provision method comprising the steps of:
receiving broadcast station identification information for identifying a currently received broadcast station from a broadcast receiver; and
transmitting state information which indicates states of an information provision service concerning said broadcast station corresponding to said broadcast station identification information and an address corresponding to said information provision service to said broadcast receiver.
2. The information provision method according to claim 1, wherein said transmission step transmits said state information and said address to said broadcast receiver at least when said information provision service is available.
3. The information provision method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of performing an information provision service by transmitting information about said information provision service to said broadcast receiver in accordance with access to said address from said broadcast receiver.
4. The information provision method according to claim 1, wherein said transmission step transmits additional information corresponding to said broadcast station identification information as well as said state information to said broadcast receiver.
5. The information provision method according to claim 1, wherein said transmission step transmits said state information provided by a content

server providing said information provision service to said broadcast receiver and uses an address provision server to transmit an address of said content server providing said information provision service to said broadcast receiver.

6. The information provision method according to claim 1, wherein a server to provide information about said information provision service receives request information which requests information about said information provision service and a service session ID equivalent to a session ID associated with said server, transmitted from said broadcast receiver based on said address;

said server performs an authentication process based on said service session ID and, when an authentication error occurs, transmits information indicating the authentication error and identification information for identifying said server to said broadcast receiver;

an authentication server receives authentication ticket issuance request information which requests to issue an authentication ticket for access to said server as well as an authentication session ID equivalent to a session ID associated with said authentication server, from said broadcast receiver;

said authentication server authenticates said authentication session ID, when granting an authentication, issues an authentication ticket, and transmits said issued authentication ticket to said broadcast receiver;

said server receives said authentication ticket transmitted from said broadcast receiver and transmits said received authentication ticket

to said authentication server;

said authentication server, when authenticating said received authentication ticket to be valid, transmits information indicating authentication permission to said server;

said server receives said information indicating authentication permission, issues a service session ID as a session ID associated with said broadcast receiver, and transmits said issued service session ID to said broadcast receiver;

said server receives said request information as well as said service session ID from said broadcast receiver; and

said server performs an authentication process based on said service session ID and, when granting an authentication, transmits associated information corresponding to said request information to said broadcast receiver.

7. An information provision apparatus comprising:

reception means for receiving broadcast station identification information for identifying a currently received broadcast station from a broadcast receiver; and

transmission means for transmitting state information which indicates states of an information provision service concerning said broadcast station corresponding to said broadcast station identification information and an address corresponding to said information provision service to said broadcast receiver.

8. The information provision apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said transmission means transmits said state information and said address

to said broadcast receiver at least when said information provision service is available.

9. The information provision apparatus according to claim 7, further comprising an information provision service execution means for performing an information provision service by transmitting information about said information provision service to said broadcast receiver in accordance with access to said address from said broadcast receiver.

10. The information provision apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said transmission means transmits additional information corresponding to said broadcast station identification information as well as said state information to said broadcast receiver.

11. The information provision apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said transmission means transmits said state information provided by a content server providing said information provision service to said broadcast receiver and uses an address provision server to transmit an address of said content server providing said information provision service to said broadcast receiver.

12. An information provision program allowing an information processing apparatus to perform the steps of:

receiving broadcast station identification information for identifying a currently received broadcast station from a broadcast receiver; and

transmitting state information which indicates states of an information provision service concerning said broadcast station corresponding to said broadcast station identification information and

an address corresponding to said information provision service, to said broadcast receiver.

13. An information reception method comprising the steps of:

transmitting broadcast station identification information for identifying a currently received broadcast station to an information provision apparatus; and

receiving state information which indicates states of an information provision service concerning said broadcast station corresponding to said broadcast station identification information and an address corresponding to said information provision service, from said information provision apparatus.

14. An information reception apparatus comprising:

transmission means for transmitting broadcast station identification information for identifying a currently received broadcast station to an information provision apparatus; and

reception means for receiving state information which indicates states of an information provision service concerning said broadcast station corresponding to said broadcast station identification information and an address corresponding to said information provision service, from said information provision apparatus.

15. A state information reception program allowing an information processing apparatus to perform the steps of:

transmitting broadcast station identification information for identifying a currently received broadcast station to an information provision apparatus; and

receiving state information which indicates states of an information provision service concerning said broadcast station corresponding to said broadcast station identification information and an address corresponds to said information provision service, from said information provision apparatus.